

Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) earlier today sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, and Chairman David Obey urging that seniors be given their FY 2011 Social Security Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) increase. And today, the House Ways and Means Committee has announced that it will move ahead with legislation to provide a onetime payment of \$250 to assist seniors with the cost of living increase.

"Our seniors were hit hard by the economic crisis and many are still struggling from day to day," said Rep. Sanchez. "Orange County seniors have overwhelmingly asked me to help fight for this COLA increase. We need to be helping our seniors stay on their feet by giving them the cost of living increase they deserve. I am proud to announce these funds, and will continue to be a strong advocate for Orange County seniors."

COLA is allocated annually to Social Security recipients in compensation for inflation. Current Reports state that COLA will not be distributed until 2012. This leaves many Senior Citizens helpless during these tough economic times particularly when this money provides a main source of income.

According to the Social Security Administration, Social Security was the primary source of income for 64 percent of retirees who received benefits in 2008. That same year, a third of our nation's seniors relied on Social Security for at least 90 percent of their income.